

He's a man who has truly used his talents and abilities, particularly his legal expertise, to benefit the people in his community and across Arkansas. He has made life better and richer for all—like me—who were lucky enough to call him a friend. On behalf of Congress, I pay tribute to Sam Boyce for his tireless service to the people of Arkansas and the United States.

HONORING INOVA MOUNT VERNON HOSPITAL, THE MOUNT VERNON-LEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LARGE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR, 2002

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, which was named the 2002 Large Business of the Year from the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce.

Having served its community with steadfast dedication for over 25 years, Inova Mount Vernon Hospital is well deserving of this recognition. Since 1977, Inova Mount Vernon Hospital has been devoted to providing quality health care services in the most customer-friendly service environment possible.

In 2002 the hospital implemented its "Service Excellence—Straight From the Heart" focus to provide all staff, volunteers, and physicians additional tools to meet and exceed the service expectations of their patients. This new service campaign produced fantastic results, with inpatient and outpatient satisfaction increasing substantially.

In the interest of promoting health and wellness, the hospital regularly offers free blood pressure screenings and each fall provides an opportunity for community members to receive flu shots. Health fairs and free health screenings are frequently offered as well. Through these activities, Inova Mount Vernon Hospital has clearly established itself as a prominent and vital member of the Northern Virginia business and health care communities.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I call upon my colleagues to join me in congratulating Inova Mount Vernon Hospital and its staff for their many achievements, and wish them continued success in the future.

NAGORNO KARABAKH 15TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak today to extend my congratulations to the people of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, who are celebrating the 15th anniversary of the Karabakh Movement for Independence. On February 20, 1988, the Legislature of Nagorno Karabakh, officially petitioned the then-Soviet Union to reunite with their ethnic compatriots in Armenia. The people

of Nagorno Karabakh struggled bravely and selflessly in the face of tremendous institutionalized violence and oppression orchestrated by succeeding totalitarian governments. Despite years of ethnic cleansing, forced economic discrimination and state-sponsored violence and intimidation, residents of Nagorno Karabakh, 96 percent of whom are Armenian, never strayed in their struggle for independence. It wasn't until the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the cold war that they were to get their wish, but not without cost. Armed conflict engulfed the region in the early 1990s, but a fragile peace has not taken hold.

It is for these reasons that I urge my colleagues to take this historic opportunity, inspired by the anniversary of their most recent struggle to live in freedom and the free and transparent elections they have held since 1996, to support this fledgling democracy. The people of Nagorno Karabakh are to be congratulated for their perseverance and resolve in their struggle for self-determination on this 15th anniversary. I hope that this Congress will continue to assist them in the continued development of their new democracy, which serves as a beacon of hope to oppressed people seeking democracy around the globe.

NATIONAL VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATIONS WEEK

HON. JOHN E. PETERSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to introduce to my colleagues a resolution establishing a National Visiting Nurse Associations Week. Serving communities around the country for over 120 years, congressional recognition and gratitude for these nonprofit home health agencies is long over due. Currently, they are composed of 500 different associations and care for over 4,000,000 patients each year, many of whom are chronically ill and unable to pay medical expenses.

In a country crippled with staggering health care and medical costs, the Visiting Nurse Association continually and successfully works to achieve its mission of cost-effective and compassionate home and community-based health care to individuals regardless of the individuals' condition or ability to pay for services. They are a leading provider of mass immunizations in the Medicare program and constitute over 50 percent of all Medicaid home health admissions. The association relies heavily upon volunteer nurses and reinvests any budget surplus into charity care, adult day care centers, wellness clinics, Meals-on-Wheels, and immunization programs.

This resolution would designate the second full week in February as National Visiting Nurse Associations Week in order to increase public awareness of the charity-based organization. They unquestionably deserve recognition for their noble services and by establishing this resolution Congress would support the continuation of their mission.

I am proud to recognize these invaluable contributions of our VNA's by cosponsoring this legislation.

RECOGNITION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES, CHAPTER 307, ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, Chapter 307 of St. Joseph, Missouri on this, their 50th Anniversary.

The National Association of Retired Federal Employees is dedicated to protecting the earned retirement benefits of Federal employees, retirees and their survivors. The organization was founded in 1921 by fourteen Federal employees and has grown over the years to more than 400,000 Federal and Postal employees, retirees, spouses and survivors.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Chapter 307 for their accomplishments with the National Association of Retired Federal Employees and in congratulating them on their 50th anniversary.

HONORING THE MOUNT VERNON VOICE, THE MOUNT VERNON-LEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEW BUSINESS OF THE YEAR, 2002

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the Mount Vernon Voice, which has recently been named the 2002 New Business of the Year by the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce.

The Voice, founded by Marlene Miller and Steve Hunt, is a weekly newspaper dedicated to providing complete community coverage of the Mount Vernon and Lee Districts and the City of Alexandria. Having celebrated its one-year anniversary in January 2003, the Mount Vernon Voice has already proven to be a good neighbor and an invaluable member of its community.

Being the only newspaper located in the community, it serves and is staffed by residents of the area. Additionally, the Voice is proud to sponsor numerous community events and organizations, including Mount Vernon Community Day, the Mount Vernon Orchestra, Lee District Nights, educational forums on local public schools, the Alexandria Red Cross Waterfront Festival, the Animal Welfare League's Canine games, and many more community functions.

Located in the heart of the 11th District of Virginia, the Mount Vernon Voice has established itself as a vital member of the Northern Virginia community.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I call upon my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Mount Vernon Voice and its staff for their many achievements, and wish them continued success in their future endeavors.